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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /079 W
----------131034Z 054101 /23-12
R 121139Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
INFO COMIDEASTFOR
FOCCEUR LONDON UK
SECSTATE WASHDC 4968
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8021

PERSONAL FOR VICE ADMIRAL BAGLEY, INFO (COMIDEASTFOR)
RADM CROWE, FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR
SUBJECT: COMIDEASTFOR TURNOVER AT SUEZ

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR R 071158Z MAY 77 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH I AM CONCERNED THAT WE ARE OVER-LOADNING THE CIRCUIT, I TALKED WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN/MINWAR GENERAL GAMASY TODAY ABOUT A FIVE SHIP COMIDEASTFOR TURNOVER AT SUEZ PORT. I EXPLAINED THAT THREE OF THE FIVE SHIPS WOULD IN ANY CASE BE NORTHBOUND AND TWO SHIPS SOUTHBOUND THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD MAKE THE WHOLE TURNOVER PROCESS A LOT SIMPLER IF IT COULD TAKE PLACE AT SUEZ PORT. I WAS PUTTING THE MATTER TO HIM TOTALLY INFORMALLY AND WE WOULD ABIDE BY HIS WISHES IN THE MATTERS.

2. GAMASY WAS NOT OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A FIVE SHIP TURNOVER
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AT SUEZ. HE WISHED TO BE HELPFUL, BUT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THIS COULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. NAVY NOW HAS FORMAL "FACILITIES" AT EGYPTIAN PORTS. SUCH AN IMPRESSION, HOWEVER WRONG IT MIGHT BE, COULD CAUSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR EGYPT. I TOLD HIM WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO CREATE ANY POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOE AND REITERATED WE WOULD BE GUIDED ENTIRELY BY HIS WISHES. IT WAS SOLELY ADMINISTRA-

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TIVE CONVENIENCE THAT DICTATED OUR REQUEST. THERE WAS
NO QUESTION OF ANY OFFICIAL VISIT BEING INVOLVED. GAMASY
FINALLY AGREED THAT THE FIVE SHIP TURNOVER COULD TAKE
PLACE AT SUEZ ON A ONE-TIME BASIS. HE ASKED, HOWEVER,
THAT THE FIVE VESSELS NOT BE AT SUEZ PORT FOR MORE THAN
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

3. COMMENT: ON A ONE-TIME BASIS, WE NOW HAVE GAMASY'S
PERMISSION FOR PROPOSED FIVE SHIP TURNOVER AT SUEZ IN
JULY, PROVIDED IT CAN BE COMPLETED IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
I ASSUME THAT COMIDEASTFOR AND APPROPRIATE NAVAL COMMANDERS
CAN BE INSTRUCTED TO INSURE THAT OPERATION TAKES PLACE
WITHIN THAT TIME FRAMEWORK. SUEZ IS IN ANY CASE UNSATIS-
FACTORY AS A LIBERTY PORT AND I RECOMMEND AGAINST SHORE
LIBERTY BEING GRANTED. EARLIER COMIDEASTFOR MESSAGE
SUGGESTS SOME NAVAL PERSONNEL FROM LASALLE MAY BE TRANSIT-
ING OVERLAND TO AND FROM CAIRO IN CONNECTION WITH RELIEF
OF PART OF CREW. GIVEN EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY THAT THERE BE
NO SUGGESTION USG HAS NAVAL "FACILITIES" IN EGYPT, NUMBER
OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED SHOULD BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE NEED TO KNOW ASAP APPROXIMATE
NUMBER OF PERSONNEL LIKELY BE IN SUCH A TRANSIT CATEGORY.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770567/aaaacfhf.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2553783
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMIDEASTFOR TURNOVER AT SUEZ
TAGS: OCLR
To: CINCUSNAVEUR
Type: TE
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